

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 96

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the dedication and selfless service of firefighters and urge the observance of “Firefighters’ Memorial Day” on October 9, 2015, and “Volunteer Firefighters Week” during March 1-7, 2015.

WHEREAS, on October 9, 1871, the Great Chicago Fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres in just 27 hours; and

WHEREAS, in 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation and, since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed during the week in which October 9 falls on the calendar; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has signed a proclamation pronouncing a day of national observance during National Fire Prevention Week every year since 1925; and

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective well-being, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service as firefighters; and

WHEREAS, these individuals daily face the rigors of corporal imperilment in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee’s fire departments and volunteer firefighters are dedicated to saving lives and property from the devastating effects of fire and are joined by the concerned citizens and government officials of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of those brave men and women who have put their lives on the line while fighting fires, and those who have lost that battle in order to save and protect their fellow citizens, the State of Tennessee is proud to annually honor and remember these fire-fighting heroes on "Firefighters' Memorial Day," which is designated as October 9, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 15-2-119, and during the first full week of March, which is designated as "Volunteer Firefighters Week" pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 15-2-121(a); and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that those firefighters who have selflessly dedicated their lives to the safety of others, and those who have courageously given their lives in this noble cause, be recognized for the accomplishment of their high purposes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the dedication and selfless service of past and present, volunteer and full-time, firefighters throughout Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge all Tennesseans to appropriately observe "Firefighters' Memorial Day" on October 9, 2015, and "Volunteer Firefighters Week" during the week of March 1-7, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.